(from Iranian side) and a consortium from Indian side [consisting of Ashok Leyland Project Services (ALPS), IRCON and RITES] on 4.1.2003 in connection with construction of Chahbahar-Bam Railway line (600 kilometers) and development of Port at Chahbahar. IRCON International Limited has been pursuing the Railway line project to be constructed through the medium of a Joint Venture Company to be incorporated in Iran with 50% participation of an Iranian Railway Company (nominated by Iranian Government) and 50% by Indian consortium members (ALPS-IRCON-RITES). A supplementary MoU was signed in August 2004 whereby a traffic study was to be conducted by a jointly nominated consultant. The study and evaluation revealed that the proposed Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) model was not found viable. Therefore, a suggestion was made by the Indian consortium for doing the said project on Build-Lease Transfer (BLT) basis. It was jointly agreed in May 2008 during the first meeting of Iran-India Joint Working Group on Railway Line in Tehran that Iran will study BLT model proposed by the Indian consortium instead of BOT model earlier envisaged and will submit the relevant response. The final decision on the link will be taken by the Iranian authorities.

The Chahbahar-Bam Link will help in establishing multi-modal link to Russia *via* Iran and will provide Indian goods access to Central Asia.

Computerized reservation facility

†130. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations where facilities have been provided to make the reservation convenient for the railway passengers to travel to and fro;

(b) the number of railway stations in the country where computerized reservation facility is available; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make available computerized reservation facility in other stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Computerised Reservation facilities are available at 1297 railway stations.

(c) The facility of Computerised Reservation has been sanctioned at 944 more railway stations of Indian Railways.

Dudhnoi-Depa rail project

131. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project connecting Dudhnoi and Depa in the State of Meghalaya, a stretch of 15.5 kilometre was sanctioned as early as in 1989;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether any progress has been made to implement this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Dudhnoi-Depa new Broad Gauge line (15.5 km.) was included in Railway Budget 1992-93.

(b) Due to public agitation and obstruction, State Government could not hand over land for Dudhnoi-Depa rail line. Consequently, State Govt. has proposed alternate alignment from Dudhnoi to Mendipather. Final Location Survey for this alternate alignment has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up.

(d) Does not arise.

Delhi-Howrah rail line in the range of cracking land

†132. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of falling the Howrah-Delhi railway route in the range of cracking land and whether there is an apprehension of Howrah-Delhi railway line and Jhansi- Mirzapur main railway line being affected due to causing 20-20 feet deep cracks near the railway line in four villages of Meja Tehsil of Allahabad; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to avoid any possible accident in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no apprehension of closing of Howrah-Delhi line in the range of cracking land. Also, there is no apprehension of Jahnsi-Mirzapur main railway line being affected by the cracking of land in the Meja Tehsil of Allahabad.

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation to victims of blast on Dibrugarh-Delhi Rajdhani Express

133. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who lost their lives due to a bomb blast in the Dibrugarh-Delhi Rajdhani Express in December, 2007;

(b) the number out of them who were passengers and railway men separately and the outcome of the statutory enquiry conducted into the blast and action taken thereon; and

(c) the compensation paid to the victims of the bomb blast by his Ministry and other authorities, if any?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.